(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This scheme funded through ACA was launched by the Planning Commission in 2002-03 in 51 identified districts on Pilot Project basis and was initiated in the middle of the year 2002-03. Its implementation in 2003-04 also was through Planning Commission. The delay in release of funds in 2003-04 was due to administrative reasons. However, in the year 2005-06, the money was released in time and the Government has also approved continuation of this Project in the year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) In the current financial year, a sum of Rs. 1113.73 lakhs have been allocated as ACA on 100% grant basis for implementation of this scheme in Adilabad and Mahboobnagar Districts of Andhra Pradesh. 50% of which *i.e.* Rs. 556.87 lakhs would be released as 1st instalment shortly.

Extension of mid-day meal scheme

3838. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested Union Government for release of Rs. 98.41 crores to extend the Mid-day Meal Programme upto 10th class students in the State and whether further proposals have been submitted for release of Rs. 20-34 crores to continue the Mid-day Meals Programme during summer vacations in drought affected areas in the State;

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of releasing the funds at the earliest; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for Central assistance to provide mid-day meal to children studying up to 10th class. The proposal could not be agreed to due to the fact that the

Centrally Sponsored Mid-Day Meal Scheme is applicable only to children studying in Classes-I to V.

The State had also asked for Central assistance towards cooking cost on account of mid-day meal during summer vacation of 2005 in drought-affected areas. The matter is under consideration.

Basic Science Institute

3839. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a basic Science Institute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government has set up two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) in Kolkata and Pune. The classes are scheduled to start from July, 2006 in both the Institutes.

Criteria for appointment of teachers and professors

†3840. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate new criteria for reconsideration with regard to the appointment of teachers/professors in the colleges throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) A Review Committee, set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. B. Mungekar to review the National Eligibility Test (NET) for its utility, l effectiveness and continuation, has given its interim report and the recommendations are as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.